

CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a terminal connected to
5 at least two communication networks with information regarding services provided in said networks, said method comprising the following steps:
 - providing a database server with a database;
 - collecting information regarding services provided
10 in said at least two communication networks in said database server;
 - storing said collected information in said database as service information in a uniform format; and
 - transferring said uniform service information to
15 said terminal.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said networks are adapted to at least one of the following standards, Digital Video Broadcasting, MPEG2, ATSC, and cablelabs.
- 20 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said terminal is an integrated receiver decoder, preferably a set top box or a personal computer equipped with a digital television receiver card.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
25 step of collecting information is effected manually.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of collecting information comprises a channel search.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of collecting information comprises the additional step of converting non-uniform information collected by said server into said uniform format.

5 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of collecting information is performed at predetermined time intervals.

8. The method according to claim 1, comprising the additional step of storing user information associated
10 with said terminal, wherein said user information comprises information regarding to which networks said terminal is connected, access rights, user preferences, such as fields of interest, and wherein said step of transferring said uniform service information comprises
15 a step of filtering said uniform information by means of said user information.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of filtering said uniform information is performed in said server.

20 10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of filtering said uniform information is performed in said terminal.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of transferring said uniform service information
25 is initiated by said terminal.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said step of transferring said uniform service information is effected by means of a push function initiated by said server.

13. A communication system, comprising:

- a plurality of terminals connected to at least two communication networks, and

- a database server having a database for storing digital information and being arranged to communicate with said plurality of terminals, said server comprising

- a device for collecting information regarding services provided in said networks,

- a device for storing said collected information in said database as service information in a uniform format, and

- a device for transferring said uniform service information to said terminals.

14. The communication system according to claim 13, wherein said networks are adapted to the Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) standard.

15. The communication system according to claim 13, wherein said terminals are integrated receiver decoders, preferably set top boxes.

16. The communication system according to claim 13, wherein said server comprises a device for collecting information manually.

17. The communication system according to claim 13, wherein said server comprises a device for collecting information by means of a channel search.

18. The communication system according to claim 13, comprising a device for converting non-uniform information into said uniform format.

19. The communication system according to claim 5 13, wherein said device for collecting information is arranged to collect information at predetermined intervals.

20. The communication system according to claim 10 13, comprising a memory for storing user information associated with each of said terminals, such as to which networks said terminals are connected, access rights, user preferences, such as fields of interest.

21. The communication system according to claim 15 13, wherein said server comprises a filter for filtering said uniform information by means of said user information.

22. The communication system according to claim 20 13, wherein at least one of said terminals comprises a filter for filtering said uniform information by means of said user information.

23. The communication system according to claim 13, wherein said transfer of said uniform service information is initiated by a terminal.

24. The communication system according to claim 25 13, wherein said server comprises a device for initiating said transfer of said uniform service information by means of a push function.

25. A terminal comprising a receiver adapted for receiving digital information from at least two networks, said terminal comprising

- 5 - a device for receiving information regarding services provided by said at least two networks in a uniform format,
- wherein said uniform service information is collected in a database server, stored in a database in said database server in said uniform format, and
10 transferred to said terminal from said database server.

26. The terminal according to claim 25, comprising a filter for filtering said uniform service information by means of user information, such as to which networks
15 said terminal is connected, access rights, and user preferences, such as fields of interest.

27. A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a computer terminal comprising a receiver adapted for receiving digital information from at least two networks, said product
20 comprising

- software code portions for filtering information regarding services provided by said at least two networks in a uniform format, and
- 25 - software code portions for collecting said uniform service information in a database server, storing said uniform service information in a database in said database server in said uniform format, and

transferring said uniform service information to
said terminal from said database server.